

JUL 28 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 have been indicated as being allowable and the case in condition for allowance except for several formal matters, listed in the Office Action as a) through f).

The Examiner has suggested in matters a) and f) that the phrase "for making a self-pinned pinned spin-valve sensor" and "of a self-pinned pinned spin-valve sensor" be added to the preambles of Claims 1 and 13, respectively. Applicant respectfully submits that such an addition is unnecessary for a clear understanding of the claim. Moreover, Applicant is not aware of any rule or law that would require such an amendment. Accordingly, Applicant has not made the suggested amendments a) and f).

Regarding matter b), the Examiner suggested that the phrase "depositing a self-pinned pinned layer structure, wherein depositing a pinned layer structure comprises" in claim 1 be changed to "depositing a self-pinned pinned spin valve sensor including a pinned layer structure comprising" because the specification "discloses a self-pinned spin-valve sensor having a pinned layer structure". Applicant respectfully submits that the suggested amendment is inappropriate. First, simply because the specification discloses a self-pinned spin-valve sensor having a pinned layer structure does not mandate that any recitation of depositing the pinned layer structure include reference to the self-pinned spin-valve sensor. Second, the preceding elements of claim 1 include "depositing a free layer structure" and "depositing at least one spacer layer", which are part of the manufacture of a spin valve sensor. Thus, it would not make sense to claim "depositing a free layer structure" and "depositing at least one spacer layer" (which are part of the spin valve sensor) followed by depositing "a self-pinned pinned spin valve sensor including a pinned layer structure" as suggested by the Examiner. Finally, Applicant submits that the claim is clear and definite as it stands. Accordingly, Applicant has not made the suggested amendment b).

Regarding matters c) and d) in which the Examiner suggested changing the phrase "wherein depositing a self-pinned pinned layer structure further comprises" in Claim 4 to "wherein depositing the pinned layer structure further comprises", Applicant has made the suggested amendments. Applicant submits that changing "a" to "the" (matter c)) is unnecessary as it is the act of "depositing a self-pinned pinned layer structure", which was previously recited in Claim 1, that is being referred to in Claim 4, not the structure of the self-

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pinned pinned layer, and thus, there is no uncertainty caused by the use of "a" as opposed to "the". Nevertheless, as the amendment does not narrow the claim, the amendment has been made to expedite prosecution. Moreover, deletion of the term "self-pinned" in claims 4 as well as in claim 5 does not narrow the claim and thus Applicant has made that change.

Regarding matter e), Applicant has inserted the term "the" in front of the phrase "pinned layer structure" in claim 8, as it makes implicit what was implicit in the claim and does not narrow the claim.

Claims 4, 5, and 8 have been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that the case is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 982-8202.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to the fax number 571-273-8300 on July 28, 2006.

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Respectfully submitted,

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